



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

AP
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/079,865 | 02/21/2002 | Uma Arunkumar | GP-302051 2760/49 | 7567 |
| 7590 | 03/30/2006 | | EXAMINER | |
| General Motors Corporation Legal Staff, Mail Code 482-C23-B21 300 Renaissance Center P.O. Box 300 Detroit, MI 48265-3000 | | | SHAW, PELING ANDY | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2144 | |
| DATE MAILED: 03/30/2006 | | | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/079,865 | ARUNKUMAR, UMA |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | Peling A. Shaw | 2144 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 January 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 21 February 2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

| | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Amendment received on 01/19/2006 has been entered. Claim 22 is new. Claims 1-22 are presented for examination.
2. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the previous Office action on 10/13/2005 is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action was withdrawn.
3. Amendment received on 06/24/2005 was entered. Claims 1, 16 and 19 were amended.

Priority

4. This application has no priority claim made. The filing date is 02/21/2002.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 4-6 and 8-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Jijina et al. (US 20030103599 A1), hereinafter referred as Jijina.

- a. Regarding claim 1, Jijina disclosed a method for delivering a communication for a customer from a server to a client vehicle communication unit (VCU) installed in a vehicle of the customer, the method comprising: establishing a connection between

the server and the client VCU (page 1, paragraph 4); and acquiring, at the server, an ignition status from the client VCU as an indication of whether the customer is available in the vehicle for receiving the communication (page 1, paragraph 4).

- b. Regarding claim 4, Jijina disclosed the method of claim 1 further comprising delivering the communication to the client VCU upon acquiring an IGNITION ON status (page 1, paragraph 4).
- c. Regarding claim 5, Jijina disclosed the method of claim 4 wherein delivering the communication further comprises: the client VCU announcing delivery of the communication prior to actual delivery of the communication; and delaying actual delivery of the communication until the customer initiates delivery of the communication at the client VCU (page 2, paragraph 23).
- d. Regarding claim 6, Jijina disclosed the method of claim 5 wherein announcing the communication includes broadcasting an audible message to the customer inside the vehicle (page 2, paragraph 24).
- e. Regarding claim 8, Jijina disclosed the method of claim 1 further comprising delaying delivery of the communication to the client VCU upon acquiring an IGNITION OFF status (page 1, paragraph 7).
- f. Regarding claim 9, Jijina disclosed the method of claim 8 further comprising storing the communication at the server upon acquiring an IGNITION OFF status (page 1, paragraph 7).
- g. Regarding claim 10, Jijina disclosed the method of claim 9 further comprising periodically attempting to establish a connection (page 1, paragraph 4) for updating

the ignition status with the client VCU when an undelivered communication is stored at the server (page2, paragraphs 23-24).

- h. Regarding claim 11, Jijina disclosed the method of claim 9 further comprising storing an indication at the client VCU of a communication awaiting delivery from the server (page 1, paragraph 4; page2, paragraphs 23-24).
- i. Regarding claim 12, Jijina disclosed the method of claim 11 further comprising annunciating in the vehicle the indication of a communication awaiting delivery at the server, upon the client VCU acquiring an IGNITION ON status (page2, paragraphs 23-24).
- j. Regarding claim 13, Jijina disclosed the method of claim 1 further comprising storing the communication at the client VCU upon acquiring an IGNITION OFF status (page 1, paragraph 4).
- k. Regarding claim 14, Jijina disclosed the method of claim 13 further comprising also storing the communication at the server (page 1, paragraph 7).
- l. Regarding claim 15, Jijina disclosed the method of claim 13 further comprising delivering the communication to the customer upon the client VCU acquiring an IGNITION ON status (page 1, paragraph 4).
- m. Regarding claim 16, Jijina disclosed an apparatus for delivering a communication for a customer from a server to a client vehicle communication unit (VCU) installed in a vehicle of the customer, the apparatus comprising: means for establishing a connection between the server and the client VCU (page 1, paragraph 4); and means for acquiring, at the server, an ignition status from the client VCU as an indication of

whether the customer is available in the vehicle for receiving the communication (page 1, paragraph 4).

- n. Regarding claim 17, Jijina disclosed the apparatus of claim 16 further comprising means for delivering the communication to the customer upon acquiring an IGNITION ON status (page 1, paragraph 4).
- o. Regarding claim 18, Jijina disclosed the apparatus of claim 16 further comprising means for storing the communication until an IGNITION ON status is acquired (page 1, paragraph 7).
- p. Regarding claim 19, Jijina disclosed a computer readable medium storing a computer program for delivering a communication for a customer from a server to a client vehicle communication unit (VCU) installed in a vehicle of the customer, the computer program comprising: computer readable code for establishing a connection between the server and the client VCU (Fig. 3; page 1, paragraph 4); and computer readable code for acquiring, at the server, an ignition status from the client VCU as an indication of whether the customer is available in the vehicle for receiving the communication (Fig. 3; page 1, paragraph 4).
- q. Regarding claim 20, Jijina disclosed the computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein the computer program further comprises computer readable code for delivering the communication to the customer upon acquiring an IGNITION ON status (Fig. 3; page 1, paragraph 4).
- r. Regarding claim 21, Jijina disclosed the computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein the computer program further comprises computer readable code for storing

the communication until an IGNITION ON status is acquired (Fig. 3; page 1, paragraph 7).

s. Regarding claim 22, Jijina disclosed the method of claim 1 wherein the connection is established according to standard radio telephone operation (page 1, paragraph 4: voice call over wireless network).

Jijina disclosed all limitations of claims 1, 4-6 and 8-22. Claims 1, 4-6 and 8-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over do Nascimento, JR. (US 20020128000 A1), hereinafter referred as Nascimento in view of do Heyward et al. (US 20020042266 A1), hereinafter referred as Heyward.

a. Nascimento shows (claim 1) a method for delivering a communication for a customer from a server (Fig. 13, paragraph 95: SLDNM) to a client vehicle communication unit (VCU) (Fig. 13, paragraph 95: WVCS) installed in a vehicle of the customer, the method comprising: establishing a connection between the server and the client VCU (Fig. 13, paragraph 95: WVCS communicate thru BS and MSC with SLDNM); and an ignition status from the client VCU as an indication of whether the customer is

available in the vehicle for receiving the communication (paragraph 118: VCM is powered up when ignition switch is activate). Nascimento does not show (claim 1) acquiring, at the server, an ignition status from the client VCU.

- b. Heyward shows (claim 1) acquiring, at the server, an ignition status from the client VCU (Fig. 9; paragraph 81: reporting other status information including ignition status) in an analogous art for the purpose of conserving wireless resources.
- c. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Nascimento's functions of driving detection/notification and location/situation-based services with Heyward's functions reporting mobile unit status, including ignition status.
- d. The modification would have been obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to provide the mobile unit status per Heyward's teaching in further enhancing mobile communication per Nascimento and Heyward's teaching.
- e. Regarding claim 2, Nascimento shows wherein the communication is one of the group consisting of a voicemail message, a facsimile (FAX), an E-mail message, and a transfer of data (paragraph 112: e-mail, fax, voicemail and text message).
- f. Regarding claim 3, Nascimento shows wherein delivering the communication further comprises annunciating the type of communication available for delivery (paragraph 121: VCM 108 causes audio inquiries to be made through a speaker of the vehicle or displays video inquiries on the display).
- g. Regarding claim 4, Nascimento shows further comprising delivering the communication to the client VCU upon acquiring an IGNITION ON status

(paragraphs 118 and 125: VCM is activated upon ignition on and provides service via SLDNM).

- h. Regarding claim 5, Nascimento shows wherein delivering the communication further comprises: the client VCU announcing delivery of the communication prior to actual delivery of the communication; and delaying actual delivery of the communication until the customer initiates delivery of the communication at the client VCU (paragraph 121: VCM 108 causes audio inquiries to be made through a speaker of the vehicle or displays video inquiries on the display, RMM users, provide parameters for operation).
- i. Regarding claim 7, Nascimento shows wherein the customer initiates delivery with a verbal command (paragraph 39: MS play, prompt and receive feedback via DTMF tones or speech recognition; paragraph 53: DSADM 54 can be adapted to interpret and/or recognize certain predefined speaker-independent voice command; paragraph 112: speech recognition apparatus to convert message).

Together Nascimento and Heyward disclosed all limitations of claims 1-5 and 7. Claims 1-5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed on 01/19/2006 have been fully considered, but they are not persuasive.

- a. In response to applicant's statement of "Jijina does not disclose acquiring, at the server, an ignition status from the client VCU, as claimed in claims 1, 16 and 19." Jijina does show (Fig. 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8) various voice or data call functions and references to the ignition status in related to various voice or data call functions (page 1, paragraphs 4 and 7). These indicate that Jijina does learn ignition status (paragraph 7: i.e., the ignition of the vehicle 41 is on or the VCU is awake in a DRx cycle) with voice or data call functions as they reside in a counter communication system, i.e. a server.
- b. In response to applicant's statement of "Jijina does not disclose the client VCU announcing delivery of the communication prior to actual delivery of the communication; and delaying actual delivery of the communication until the customer initiates delivery of the communication at the client VCU", Jijina disclosed (page 2, paragraph 23) providing announcement to the caller indicating the voice call has been forwarded to vehicle phone and the possibility of waiting for a fixed number of rings before being forwarded to voice mail module. Jijina disclosed (page 2, paragraph 23) a final resolution of the voice call includes a conversation between the caller and a user of vehicle phone, i.e. a pickup of vehicle phone by a user to receive the voice call.

- c. In response to applicant's statement of "Jijina does not disclose the client VCU annunciating the communication includes broadcasting an audible message to the customer inside the vehicle", Jijina disclosed (page 2, paragraph 24) the subscriber answered the fake rings, i.e. annunciating the call forwarding with a ringing tone audible in vehicle. In addition, Nascimento also disclosed (paragraph 121) using speaker to communicate with users in vehicle.
- d. In response to applicant's statement of "presupposing the existence of such a communications" vs. " notifying a call center of vehicle's status without presupposing any such communication, based solely on a change in status". As per applicant's claims, Nascimento and Heyward's arts all deal with communications with vehicle, the status of vehicle, i.e. ignition as per applicant's claims, Heyward and Nascimento, is relevant to the communication ability of vehicle. It is obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the techniques used by Heyward and Nascimento in the similar arts, i.e. wireless communication applications in vehicle. As the communication with vehicle per applicant's claims, Heyward and Nascimento is of client/server type, Nascimento and Heyward disclosed establishing connection with vehicle, getting the ignition status for establishing communication, i.e. per claim 1. Thus the combinatory of Heyward and Nascimento has the motivation and all limitations of claims 1-5 and 7 as rejected above.
- e. Claim 22 is examined and rejection in the above section.

Conclusion

8. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Refer to the enclosed PTO-892 for details.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peling A. Shaw whose telephone number is (571) 272-7968. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00 - 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William C. Vaughn can be reached on (571) 272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

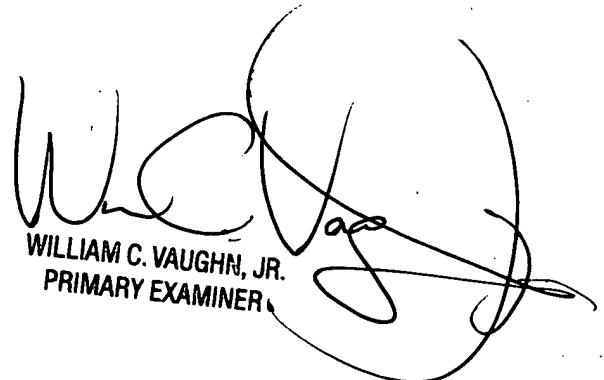
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

Art Unit: 2144

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

pas

Pas



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "WILLIAM C. VAUGHN, JR." followed by a large, stylized, looping flourish.

WILLIAM C. VAUGHN, JR.
PRIMARY EXAMINER